selection."[7] The curtailment of Germany military psychology in the emergency seems to support the judgment of the American military psychologists.

H. L. ANSBACHER

BROWN UNIVERSITY

TRANSLITERATION OF ENGLISH NAMES IN RUSSIAN

IF the transliteration of Russian names into English is a mess, that of English (and other) names into Russian is doubly so. The Russian alphabet, with all other Slavic alphabets except the Polish, has no *w*, which is of little consequence, its place being taken by *v* (as it is, more or less, in the pronunciation of many English words); but for some strange reason the Russians in general do not transliterate the *w* in English names by *v* (though they do so in various German words), but by *u*. Thus Wendell Willkie is "Uendel Uilki," New York is "Niu Iork," Shaw is "Šo," etc. But this is not all. For some unknown reason the Russian, alone among the Slavic and other European languages, has no *h*, though the sound is present in the Ukrainian and other Russian dialects. Thus Houston, for instance, would be given as "Giustn," Ohio as "Ogio," Hall as "Gol," etc. There is also no *th*, it being replaced by *f*, so that Thomas is "Foma," etc. An effort furthermore is to write foreign names phonetically, which involves further corruptions.

It is plain that to science all this will be of serious and growing disadvantage, as it must be of much impediment to foreigners learning Russian, as well as to Russian youth who learn foreign languages.

The remedy, at least for scientific publications and catalogues, would seem to be fairly simple—the printing by the Russians of all foreign names as they are and in italics; and the general adoption of the letter *h*. The all-powerful Academy of Sciences of the U. S. S. R. could readily effect these changes and they would be very much to its credit.

The Russian alphabet, as is well known, was taken, with orthodox Christianity, from Byzantium, and is essentially the Greek (Ionian) alphabet; but the Greek had both the sound of *h* and its alphabetic representation. The Greek too had (and has) a special letter for *th*.

ALEŠ HRDLIČKA

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

ARTHUR WILLIS GOODSPEED

IN his excellent obituary of Arthur Willis Goodspeed,[1] Horace C. Richards pays tribute to Goodspeed's important pioneer work with x-rays. It is noteworthy that Goodspeed's profound interest in the physical properties of x-rays and in their practical applications was probably due to the fact that he *almost* discovered the phenomenon himself six years before Röntgen. This incident is described in my biography of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen,[2] from which I quote:

> Goodspeed and a friend by the name of W. N. Jennings were photographing electric sparks and brush discharges on the evening of February 22, 1890. After some such experiments had been completed, the table was still littered with loaded plate holders and other apparatus when Goodspeed brought out some Crookes tubes and demonstrated them to Jennings. The next day, Jennings reported that when the plates were developed he had found a very curious phenomenon: two round discs superimposed upon the spark tracings on the photographic negative. No one could explain this curious effect, and the plates were put aside with other freak photographs and were forgotten. Six years later, after the discovery of the roentgen rays had been announced, these negatives were unearthed and reexamined. Another exposure was made with the same apparatus and under similar conditions, and the results were the same; that is, two discs with a sharp boundary on one side and a blurred boundary on the other side were visible on the plate. Goodspeed concluded a lecture on roentgen rays at the University of Pennsylvania on February 22, 1896, with the story of his early experiments, and said: "We can claim no merit for the discovery, for no discovery was made. All we ask is that you remember, gentlemen, that six years ago, day for day, the first picture in the world by cathodic rays was taken in the Physical Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania."

Before publishing this account an inquiry in regard to the authenticity of the reports of this event brought from Goodspeed the following answer:

> PHILADELPHIA, February 15, 1929
>
> . . . The accidental roentgen effect which W. N. Jennings and I produced in 1890 was real and authentic. Because of our laxity in not following the matter up we do not claim any credit whatsoever, but the facts are as stated in such articles as you may have read.

CLEVELAND CLINIC FOUNDATION OTTO GLASSER

QUOTATION

POOLING RESEARCH

SIR JOHN ANDERSON'S visit to Washington and Ottawa marks further progress in a movement which began long before the United States entered the war and which has already yielded fruitful results. The immediate object is to set up a committee of scientists to act as a clearing house for information on scientific research. The committee would be formed, to begin with, by the Governments of Great Britain, the United States and Canada; but it is hoped that in due course the participation of other Governments will be secured

[7] The Staff, Personnel Research Section, Classification and Replacement Branch, The Adjutant General's Office, SCIENCE, 97, 473–478, 1943.

[1] SCIENCE, 98: 125, August 6, 1943.

[2] Springfield, Ill., Charles C Thomas, 1934.